



FY 2009 NOAA BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



National Marine Fisheries Service: Habitat Conservation and Restoration

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) FY 2009 budget request includes \$43.4 million for habitat conservation and restoration. This request supports work to protect and restore habitat essential to productive fisheries, healthy marine ecosystems, and thriving coastal communities.



Fort Desoto, FL

FY 2009 Program Highlights

Sustainable Habitat Management (\$21.0M)

Habitat Conservation +\$0.3M: NMFS requests \$18.5M to support required consultations nationwide to protect essential fish habitat (EFH) from federal agency actions posing threats to these valuable resources (e.g., construction, dredging, filling of wetlands, hydroelectric power plant operation, waste discharges, and energy development). The request will also support efforts to describe and identify EFH and evaluate the impacts of fishing activity on EFH. The request includes \$2.8M for technical and legal capabilities to help meet increased responsibilities under the Energy Policy Act, including an upcoming increase in number of dams requiring re-licensing.

Refine Essential Fish Habitat +\$0.2M: NMFS requests \$1.0M to refine EFH descriptions and identifications. This request supports work to improve NOAA's understanding of those habitats and areas necessary to support sustainable fisheries and the communities and economies that depend on them.

Deep Sea Coral +\$1.5M: NMFS requests an increase of \$1.5M to implement the new *Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program* mandated by the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSRA). The program will use

funding to identify, understand, and provide information needed to protect deep sea coral habitats.

Fisheries Habitat Restoration (\$22.4M)

Open Rivers +\$5.4M: NMFS requests a total of \$7.0M to continue support for community-driven removal of dams and other barriers that restore fish passage to upstream spawning and rearing habitat. NMFS requests an increase of \$4.4M to restore funds to the FY07 level of \$6M and an additional \$1.0M to support watershed-level projects with multiple fish passage opportunities.

Great Lakes Habitat Restoration +\$1.5M: NMFS requests an increase of \$1.5M for the cross-NOAA Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program to address lake-wide ecosystem problems, such as persistent contaminants in sediment and the loss of high-quality fish and wildlife habitat.

Community-Based Restoration +\$0.0M: NMFS requests \$13.1M for habitat restoration efforts by NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program. This request serves as the foundation for partnerships and locally-led projects that restore thousands of acres of fish habitat which help sustain commercial and recreational fisheries. In addition, these funds will support work by the Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program to restore coastal and marine resources injured by oil spills and hazardous substance releases.

Chesapeake Bay Oyster Restoration +\$0.0M: NMFS requests \$0.8M to continue support for native oyster restoration in Chesapeake Bay.

NOAA FY 2009 Budget Request (\$ in Millions)

	FY2007 Enacted	FY2008 Enacted	FY2009 Pres Bud Request
Sustainable Habitat Management	\$19.8	\$18.7	\$21.0
Fisheries Habitat Restoration	\$23.7	\$25.4	\$22.4
Congressional Directed Projects	-	\$6.1	-
Total	\$43.5	\$50.2	\$43.4

For more information, contact:

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